

# THE DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION



In just over six months, television broadcasters will stop broadcasting their signal in analog format and will broadcast only in digital format. This transition from analog to digital, known as the Digital TV (DTV) transition, will take place on **February 17, 2009**, and will bring new opportunities and innovative services to all consumers. The potential for more channels, better picture clarity, and greater consumer interaction is what makes digital television such an exciting technology.

In order to receive and view digital television service, consumers must have a digital television set equipped with a digital tuner capable of receiving the digital signal that is provided either over-the-air or via cable or satellite television systems. Analog-only televisions will no longer be able to receive the new broadcast signals. Those televisions must be connected to cable or satellite systems or be equipped with a digital-to-analog converter box. The cost of these boxes is expected to be \$50 to \$70. Converter boxes will not only enable all analog televisions to function, they should also provide better reception and additional features, such as closed captioning and parental controls. To help ease the burden on those households that do not have digital television, Congress passed legislation that directs the

Department of Commerce to provide up to two \$40 coupons to households who need to purchase the digital-to-analog converter box.

An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it will free up parts of the valuable analog spectrum for public safety communications, such as communications among police departments, fire departments and rescue squads. Additionally, some of the analog spectrum will be auctioned off for important uses like wireless high speed Internet services, which will provide more options for consumers in rural areas. A portion of the revenue raised in the spectrum auction will be returned to the U.S. Treasury, thereby contributing to federal deficit reduction.

The digital television transition is exciting news for consumers. As we approach the DTV transition deadline, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you need more information or visit the Federal Communications Commission's website at <http://www.dtv.gov>.

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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*This mailing was prepared,  
published and mailed at  
taxpayer expense.*

*Bob Goodlatte*  
M.C.

PRSRT STD



Congressman  
**Bob Goodlatte**

SERVING THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

## 2008 Veterans' Service Fair

WHEN: Tuesday, August 12, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Weyers Cave Community Center  
682 Weyers Cave Road  
Weyers Cave

Congressman Goodlatte will be hosting a Veterans' Service Fair. It is designed to help enroll our veterans in the VA healthcare system and to better connect them to the many programs, benefits and services that they may not be taking advantage of in our region.

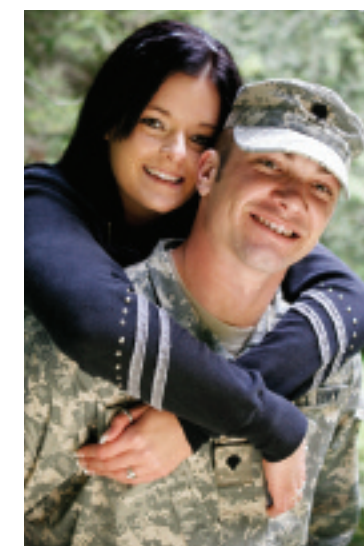
The Veterans' Service Fair is for the benefit of all veterans.

## A NEW G.I. BILL FOR OUR VETERANS

Recently the Congress passed, with my support, important legislation that expands the education benefits for our returning service members. The legislation has now been signed into law by the President.

The Supplemental Appropriations Bill includes important legislation that extends educational benefits to all members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated reservists and National Guard. This provision, which is similar to the benefits that were extended to veterans returning from World War II, ensures that service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan receive up to 36 months of education benefits, including stipends for housing and books. The legislation also allows veterans up to fifteen years (compared to ten years under the current G.I. Bill) after they leave active duty to use their educational assistance and allows members of the military the ability to transfer any unused education benefits to their spouse or children, giving our men and women greater flexibility in the use of the benefits they have so rightly earned.

Today our troops continue to battle the foes of democracy and freedom in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. I commend the valor and courage of our troops, who bravely step into unfamiliar territory against sometimes unseen enemies to protect millions of Americans and others they may never meet. I was proud to vote for the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which provides the necessary resources to keep the U.S. military ready to overcome any challenge and provides them much deserved and expanded benefits upon their return home.



## 2008 Seniors' Conference

Congressman Goodlatte will be hosting the 2008 Seniors' Conference which will cover issues related to Social Security and Medicare, and it will feature experts on issues of concern to nearly all seniors. Guest speakers will cover topics including community resources available to seniors, avoiding scams targeted at seniors, and general financial security and retirement advice.

Following the speakers, conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit booths, gather information, and ask questions of representatives from a number of different local organizations providing services to seniors.

When: Monday, August 11, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Lynchburg College  
Hall Campus Center, Ballroom  
Lynchburg

*Enter campus through the main gate located on Lakeside Drive.  
Free shuttle service will be provided from the designated parking  
areas to the Hall Campus Center.*



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[www.house.gov/goodlatte](http://www.house.gov/goodlatte)

Dear Fellow Americans,



We opened this last session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress with challenges on a number of different fronts, including a struggling economy and rising energy costs. This past year, many in Congress, including myself, have urged the creation and implementation of a new energy policy for our country. The Congress needs to act, but unfortunately it has been pushing energy policy in the wrong direction.

We must keep in mind that abundant and affordable energy is the key to innovation and a strong economy. I am a strong proponent of an energy security plan that puts forward-thinking energy solutions into action by expanding and encouraging the use of renewable and alternative American fuels, funding research and development of new and innovative energy technologies, and increasing energy efficiency and conservation to reduce consumption and protect our environment.

While I have been pushing for a comprehensive domestic energy policy for many years, the need for increased supply and energy independence has never been more apparent. I will continue working to promote proposals that will seek to lessen our dangerous reliance on foreign energy, and allow us to become energy independent. Only through a comprehensive energy policy based on exploration, innovation, and conservation, can we grow our economy, create quality jobs, and make America stronger.

I invite you to take a few minutes to read through this newsletter, which highlights many of the critical issues facing our country, including the high price of energy. Additionally, inside the newsletter you will find the results of a recent survey of Sixth District residents that was taken during my telephone town hall meetings. These telephone town hall meetings have proven to be an excellent way for me to reach more of my constituents at one time. They allow thousands of my constituents to speak directly to me without having to leave the comfort of their own homes.

In addition, I hope you can find time to join me at the Energy Conference, Seniors' Conference, or Veterans' Service Fair I am hosting in the coming month. These events are excellent opportunities for you to gather information from a wide array of local organizations and to ask questions. More information on these events can be found inside this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Very Truly Yours,

*Bob*

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO YOUR ISSUES AND VALUES

## PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Working to reduce government waste is a significant undertaking and one to which I remain firmly dedicated, even in a Congress where excessive spending runs rampant. It is critical to ensure that the Congress responsibly manages federal spending, especially our tax dollars, to fund our nation's priorities through greater transparency and accountability. That is why I have consistently voted for the tightest budgets offered and even introduced bipartisan legislation that would amend the U.S. Constitution to force Congress to rein in spending by balancing the federal budget.

In addition, I have cosponsored important legislation that would create a sunset commission to review our country's federal agencies. The Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, otherwise known as the SAFE Act, establishes a national bipartisan

commission that will examine everything—entitlement spending, as well as all other federal programs, and our nation's tax policies—and present long-term solutions that will help place the U.S. on a fiscally sustainable course and ensure the solvency of these important government programs. As our country's needs change, so should our governmental policies, and this vital legislation would determine what agencies are performing most efficiently for the citizens they serve.

I believe it is my duty as a Member of Congress to exercise great care and responsibility in managing our spending priorities, and I will continue working to make sure the hard-earned dollars of my constituents are handled responsibly in Congress and wasteful government spending is stopped.

## REFORMING AMERICA'S FARM POLICY

Earlier this year the Congress passed the bipartisan 2008 Farm Bill. As the lead House Republican negotiator on the Farm Bill conference, I was pleased to lead the charge in reforming various aspects of federal farm policy and help craft the most reform-minded farm bill in the history of the Congress while helping to assure that Americans continue to have the safest, most abundant and affordable food in the world.

The conference agreement made great strides in reforming farm programs to cut benefits going to wealthy farmers and non-farmers, modernize the dairy program, and prevent farmers from taking advantage of windfalls from the government in times of market disruption.

Additionally, the legislation contains many good provisions for the Sixth Congressional District, including strong conservation programs, provisions for fruit and vegetable producers, and increased funding for food banks. Specifically, the Farm Bill includes critical funding for conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and requires that a comprehensive plan for restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed be developed. The legislation also includes funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides food to states for distribution to needy families.

I am proud of the work the conference committee did in putting together a fiscally responsible, reform-minded farm bill that addresses a variety of issues, such as conservation and rural development, nutrition, forestry, and alternative sources of energy, while maintaining a safety net for American agricultural production. The 2008 Farm Bill will help ensure that agriculture remains a vital part of the American economy.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Each week, folks across the Sixth District and the nation are confronted with the rising cost of energy, from the gas pump to their electric and gas bills. Energy is vital to every sector of the U.S. economy, and when energy supplies are tight, families and businesses are severely impacted by the resulting increase in energy costs.

To move America toward energy independence, we need a comprehensive and strategic plan that increases the supply, security and diversity of American energy, promotes conservation and puts real alternative fuel sources in the hands of consumers to lower costs.

We must lift the moratorium on drilling along the Outer Continental Shelf, which could potentially provide tens of billions of barrels of oil and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling, potentially producing nearly a million barrels of oil a day.

### Opposed to Mandates for Ethanol

*We should develop a renewable policy in which the government incentivizes the development of new technologies but does not mandate the use of any particular fuel, like corn-based ethanol, which drives up food costs for consumers.*

Additionally, we must diversify our energy supplies with alternative sources, including renewable fuels and wind, solar and hydrogen power. But we must do so without the government mandates and subsidies that are today driving the cost of food and animal feed up as we produce more ethanol from corn. We should develop a renewable policy in which the government incentivizes the development of new technologies but does not mandate the use of any particular fuel, like corn-based ethanol, which drives up food costs for consumers.

Further, in promoting green energy we should encourage the production of more nuclear power, which provides CO<sub>2</sub> emission-free energy. Currently, we generate only 20 percent of our electricity from this clean technology.

Abundant and affordable energy is the key to a strong economy, so we must develop a long-term strategy that allows us to access our traditional energy sources while also developing alternative and renewable energy.

### Rep. Goodlatte's telephone town hall survey results:

In order to increase the supply of gas, should drilling be allowed along the Outer Continental Shelf and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

**Yes: 79%**  
**No: 21%**

## 2008 Energy Conference

Congressmen Bob Goodlatte and Rick Boucher will host an Energy Conference that will focus on ways to lessen our dangerous dependence on foreign energy. Guest speakers will cover various topics, such as the importance of expanded use of home-grown and home-produced energy, including fully utilizing nuclear power and clean coal technologies.

Following the speakers, conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit booths, gather information, and ask questions of representatives from a number of different local organizations, universities and government agencies who are working to develop alternative and renewable energy.

**When:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Patrick Henry High School Auditorium  
2102 Grandin Road, Southwest  
Roanoke



## ENFORCE OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS

The United States of America is a nation of immigrants. Legal immigration has blessed our nation with talent, diversity, and a commitment to freedom. However, we are also a nation of laws, and illegal immigration mocks these laws and our entire system of justice.

Recently I joined over 185 other Members of the House of Representatives in signing a discharge petition that would bring bipartisan immigration reform legislation to the floor for immediate consideration by the full House. The "Secure America with Verification and Enforcement Act", also known as the SAVE Act, cracks down on illegal immigration by focusing on employment enforcement, interior enforcement, and increased border security and does not reward illegal immigrants with amnesty.

The SAVE Act seeks to limit illegal immigration by requiring employers to verify their workers are in the U.S. legally and requires information-sharing between the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration and the IRS.

The SAVE Act increases interior enforcement of our immigration laws by increasing the investigative abilities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and training additional state and local law enforcement personnel. The legislation also increases border security by providing an 8,000-agent increase for the U.S. Border Patrol.

The fight against illegal immigration starts at our nation's borders. But it should not end there, and unfortunately it often does. Strengthening the Border Patrol alone is not enough to stop illegal immigration. Weak enforcement in the interior of our country and confusing provisions in immigration law have allowed illegal aliens to stay in the country for years without deportation. The SAVE Act addresses these important and necessary aspects of immigration reform and deserves a vote on the House floor.



## WORKING TO MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE

It is time for real health care reform that focuses on strategies to help Americans obtain the best quality health care at the lowest cost. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of a package of legislative proposals that represent the first steps toward meaningful health care reform. The "Making Health Care More Affordable Act" ties together six important principles while working towards the goal of providing every American with more and better health insurance choices.

This important legislation provides a health insurance tax credit of up to \$2,500 for an individual and \$6,000 for a family of four and allows individuals the option to purchase health care across state lines, which increases the affordability of health care for those who do not have access to employer-based health insurance. The legislation also creates Association Health Plans, which allow small businesses to band together to purchase insurance coverage at lower rates for their employees, expands already successful Health Savings Accounts, works to reduce the number of frivolous lawsuits, and encourages the establishment of a nationwide health information technology network, including electronic medical records and e-prescriptions, which can reduce medical errors, save time, save money, and most importantly, save lives.

Rather than dictating medical decisions from Washington, we should be concentrating our efforts on making health care more affordable for all Americans and giving them the freedom to choose the plan that best fits their needs. It has never been more obvious that our current health care system is flawed. "The Making Health Care More Affordable Act" takes the important first steps needed to reform our health care system, but more work must be done. I look forward to supporting legislation that makes health care more affordable and more accessible for all Americans.